

A1  
causing the respiratory or abdominal muscles to contract, when actively breathing, and the like. To prevent or impede respiratory gases from flowing to the lungs, a variety of impeding or preventing mechanisms may be used, including those described in US Patent Nos. 5,551,420; 5,692,498; 6,062,219; 5,730,122; 6,155,257; 6,234,916 and 6,224,562 and US Patent Application No. 09/966,945, filed on the same date as the present application, the complete disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference.

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Please amend the paragraph at p. 6, ll. 30 – 32 to read as follows:

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A2  
Conveniently, a drug storage compartment 225 may be interfaced with or part of a face mask system that includes the valve system. In this way, an appropriate drug may be rapidly accessed when needed.

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 4 and 6 so that the pending claims read as follows:

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Sub 1  
A3  
1. (As Filed) A method for administering a drug to a patient, the method comprising:

coupling a valve system to the patient's airway, wherein the valve system is configured to prevent or impede respiratory gases from flowing into the lungs for at least some time such that the intrathoracic pressure is less than atmospheric pressure;  
introducing a drug into the patient;  
lowering the intrathoracic pressure using the valve system to cause blood to flow into the thorax and thereby increasing vital organ perfusion to enhance the circulation of the drug.

2. (As Filed) A method as in claim 1, wherein the patient is under cardiac arrest, and wherein the intrathoracic pressure is reduced during a decompression phase of